

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 41

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

URGING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT AN
AMENDMENT TO FEDERAL LAW TO ALLOW HOT DRY ROCK GEOTHERMAL
ENERGY PRODUCTION IN THE JEMEZ NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

WHEREAS, state, national and world leaders recognize the
need to develop renewable energy production capacity and
facilities to address decreasing fuel supplies, rising energy
demand and the need to reduce fossil fuel dependence; and

WHEREAS, it is in New Mexico's and the United States'
interest to promote the development of clean, renewable energy
from geothermal, solar, wind and hydro power sources; and

WHEREAS, the ability of hot dry rock geothermal energy
production technology to produce utility-grade energy was
proven under a twenty-four-year research project, which was
conducted in what is now the Jemez national recreation area

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1 under the auspices of the United States department of energy
2 and Los Alamos national laboratory, in cooperation with the
3 United States forest service, New Mexico's energy, minerals and
4 natural resources department, the New Mexico department of
5 environment and the office of the state engineer and with the
6 approval of the United States environmental protection agency;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, hot dry rock heat-mining technology involves the
9 generation of electricity with conventional power plants that
10 are supplied with heat provided by the pressurized circulation
11 of water through reservoirs created in deep, hot crystalline
12 rock by wells drilled several miles into the earth; and

13 WHEREAS, unlike wind and solar power, hot dry rock
14 geothermal energy is available twenty-four hours a day, seven
15 days a week, using the vast store of naturally available heat
16 deep in the earth; and it provides a clean, renewable energy
17 source that has virtually unlimited capacity to generate
18 electric power; and

19 WHEREAS, the hot dry rock project at Fenton Hill in the
20 Jemez national recreation area was decommissioned in 1998; and

21 WHEREAS, a fully operational hot dry rock facility at
22 Fenton Hill would provide ten to twenty megawatts of clean,
23 renewable power twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, to
24 Los Alamos and the surrounding area, which would be enough
25 power for ten thousand homes; and

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1 WHEREAS, reopening the hot dry rock facility at Fenton
2 Hill would create thirty temporary jobs and ten permanent jobs,
3 ranging from technical and mechanical to scientific and
4 managerial, for the region; and

5 WHEREAS, reopening the facility would create secondary
6 businesses and jobs in the energy, engineering, technical,
7 manufacturing, assembly and management sectors; and

8 WHEREAS, United States Public Law 103-104 established the
9 Jemez national recreation area in 1993 and restricts geothermal
10 leasing within its boundaries;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it support the reopening and
13 redevelopment of the hot dry rock energy production facility at
14 Fenton Hill; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional
16 delegation be urged to support an amendment to federal law to
17 permit geothermal leasing within the Jemez national recreation
18 area; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional
21 delegation.